

services to countless seniors, individuals with disabilities and low-income families. By 2014, 54 million Americans relied on Medicare for quality health care and economic security, while 69 million—including one in three children—are benefited by Medicaid and its services.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. I look forward to continuing to strengthen and protect Medicare and Medicaid to ensure that the promise of health and economic security will be there for generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 469 my flight was delayed due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

CONGRATULATING FIVE STUDENTS FROM THE 24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS FOR RECEIVING FULBRIGHT AWARDS DURING THE 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Andrew Hasson of Coppell, Afshan Kamrudin of Carrollton, Matthew Lenzen of Farmers Branch, Abhishek Raj of Carrollton, and Amanda Kathleen White of Farmers Branch, who were selected to be 2014-2015 Fulbright Grantees. This is an incredibly illustrious achievement, and I am honored that these came from my Congressional District in Texas.

The Fulbright Program was established in 1946 by Congress. These five join the already 360,000 past participants over seven decades in the Fulbright Program, a prestigious group selected through open, merit-based competitions. Their destinations and universities are as follows:

Andrew Hasson to Malaysia through the University of Pennsylvania. Afshan Kamrudin to South Africa through Southern Methodist University. Matthew Lenzen to Taiwan through Texas A&M University. Abhishek Raj to Germany through the University of Texas at Dallas. Amanda Kathleen White to Japan through the University of North Texas.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Andrew Hasson, Afshan Kamrudin, Matthew Lenzen, Abhishek Raj, and Amanda Kathleen White for this tremendous achievement.

HONORING H. GRAYSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR JONATHAN SWEET

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Grayson County Administrator Jonathan Sweet, who was recently named 2015 County Leader of the Year by Penton Media's "American City and County" magazine.

As is noted in the magazine's story, "Sweet started his professional career as the Director of Economic Development of Carroll County, Va., and then served Danville, Va., in their office of economic development. Sweet then moved to Bland County, Va., to become County Administrator at the age of 24—one of the youngest in the state to hold that position. However, he was tied to Grayson [County], where many of his friends and family lived. It's where he felt most at home."

Jonathan returned to Grayson in 2009 to serve as County Administrator and began addressing several difficult challenges, among them returning financial stability to the county and encouraging the growth of jobs and the economy. "As the furniture industry shrank and textile jobs moved overseas, the county really began to suffer, ultimately hitting an unemployment rate of 14.6 percent," Derek Prall wrote in the magazine. "By the time Sweet came on board, the county had taken on \$18.3 million in debt, and was relying on credit to stay afloat."

He immediately began working at the tasks at hand. In part because of Jonathan's efforts, "Grayson county went from one of the most financially challenged and distressed counties in Virginia, to becoming one of the most financially stable and well managed in the region," David Sexton, Chairman of the Grayson County Board of Supervisors, told the magazine. Further, the magazine notes, "The unemployment rate now stands at 6.9 percent, less than half of what it was at its peak."

Jonathan Sweet is a hardworking, dedicated, and passionate public servant, and I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating him on being named the 2015 County Leader of the Year. I commend Jonathan for his accomplishments and for his ongoing efforts to make Grayson County a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE OPEN AND TRANSPARENT SMITHSONIAN ACT OF 2015

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Open and Transparent Smithsonian Act of 2015 to further ensure that the Smithsonian Institution is accountable to the public for the taxpayer funds it receives. The bill provides that, for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act, the Smithsonian should be considered a federal agency. This bill is necessary because

there is no reason why the Smithsonian should not be accountable to the public for the annual federal appropriations it receives, which account for 70 percent of its budget. Although the Smithsonian was created by Congress as a federal trust, it receives the great majority of its funding from the federal government, much like federal agencies, and has always been treated as a federal agency except for FOIA and other open government laws. In the 1990s, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit found under the current act that the Smithsonian is not a federal agency for purposes of FOIA and the Privacy Act. The Smithsonian's website states that it is "not an Executive Branch agency, and FOIA does not apply to the Smithsonian."

This bill would amend FOIA and the Privacy Act to apply to the Smithsonian, which would require the institution to make administrative staff manuals, interpretations of law or regulations, final opinions, policies, and other records available to the public. The bill would also require the Smithsonian's Board of Regents and other boards to hold meetings to the public.

The current absence of transparency at the Smithsonian should be of concern, particularly in light of its recent history of secrecy and corruption. In 2007, an independent review found that the Smithsonian Board of Regents had violated many principles of good management. Regents during the tenure of Lawrence Small as Secretary of the Smithsonian. The report indicated that the Board had failed to provide the needed oversight, had over-compensated the Secretary, and had allowed the creation of an "insular culture." The report further found that the Smithsonian's deputy secretary and chief operating officer, Sheila Burke, was frequently absent from her duties because of outside activities, including service on corporate boards, for which she earned more than \$1.2 million over six years. Importantly, the report indicated that Smithsonian leaders took great measures to keep secret these missteps and mismanagement.

While the Smithsonian has since had new leaders, who are moving away from the mistakes of the past, Congress has not ensured that the Smithsonian is a transparent entity, which should not depend on who is in charge. An entity supported primarily by federal funds must be accountable to the American people.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD J. TRACY

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Donald J. Tracy of Cedar Park, TX. A pillar of this bustling community nestled in the heart of my congressional district, Donald recently resigned from the Cedar Park City Council to start a challenging doctoral program at Texas State University.

Daily life in Cedar Park rests upon the shoulders of dedicated public servants like Donald Tracy. First elected to the City Council in 2010, Donald served as mayor pro tem and as a critical member of several city committees. Widely admired and respected for his

leadership, Donald has been a public servant both his colleagues and constituents could rely upon.

Donald's dedication to service extends to his professional endeavors as well. For over 15 years, he has worked in Central Texas as a human resource management and workforce education professional, where he has led community- and state-wide skills development initiatives focused on training workers in high-growth, high-opportunity industry clusters. He currently works for Austin Community College, where he serves as Director of Business Operations and Marketing in the Continuing Education Division. Donald's doctoral work will directly support his critical efforts to develop certification programs for adults who want to transition into new jobs.

Donald Tracy's extraordinary commitment to service reflects the best values of Central Texas. There's no doubt that Cedar Park is a better place because of him. I heartily salute his work and wish him the best of luck in all his new endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR SARA
KUROVSKI

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Sara Kurovski, Mayor of Pleasant Hill, for being named the 2015 Meredith Woman of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, the Des Moines Business Record.

Since 2000, the Des Moines Business Record has undertaken an exhaustive annual review to identify a group of standout female leaders in the Greater Des Moines Area that are making an impact in their communities either personally or professionally, forging a path for other women to follow. The women given this prestigious award are individuals who have selflessly dedicated their time and proven their leadership abilities across a variety of professional fields.

Mayor Kurovski's passion for public service began when she attended Drake University and received her Master's degree in public administration. Since graduation she has dedicated her time and talents to serving others and improving her community.

Elected in 2013 as Mayor of Pleasant Hill, she has worked tirelessly to improve her community. Mayor Kurovski initially was involved in a number of boards for the city of Pleasant Hill, where her passion for public service and improving the lives of others grew. But running the city of Pleasant Hill is only one aspect of her life, and her work does not stop there. She also works for Iowa based Kum & Go as their manager of sustainability. I admire her dedication to the State of Iowa and believe it is hard working people like Mayor Kurovski that will lead our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Mayor Kurovski in the United States Congress and it is with great pride that I recognize and applaud her for utilizing her talents to better the State of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed

designation, and wishing her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSMAN
KEN HECHLER AND CAROL
HECHLER

HON. ALEXANDER X. MOONEY

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Congressman Ken Hechler and Carol Hechler on reaffirming their commitment to each other in their marriage on August 8th. Congressman Hechler has honorably served the amazing state of West Virginia for over fifty years, first as a combat historian in the United States Army during World War II, then as the Representative of the 4th district and as West Virginia's Secretary of State. I am overjoyed that Congressman Hechler has decided to honor and uphold the sacred institution of marriage with his wife, Carol.

I join with their families, friends, and loved ones in congratulating Congressman Hechler and his wife Carol on this momentous occasion. I wish the reaffirmed couple the best of luck, and long, happy lives together.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. CHAD
AUDI'S SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Chad Audi's years of service to our community and the State of Michigan.

The Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries started as a soup kitchen in 1909. It had a reputation for serving hot meals, providing canned goods, and other necessities to feed many people who had so little. Today, they offer numerous services including substance abuse treatment, transitional and permanent housing, job preparation, and educational courses. Starting as a volunteer in 1994, Dr. Audi has worked tirelessly to transform this organization.

After 10 years of service, Dr. Audi became the President and CEO of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries in 2004. Since then, he has helped to make this community institution into the largest rescue mission in the United States. The resources they offer to women, children, senior citizens, and veterans, have made the Detroit Metropolitan Area a better place to work and live. Dr. Audi's tenure and contributions reflect his passion for service, his commitment to his community, and his calling to improve the lives of others. Dr. Audi deserves our utmost respect and admiration and this world would be a better place with more people like him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the work of Dr. Chad Audi and the strength he has given to the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. ALEXIS
JOY MARIE HAYES

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Alexis Joy Marie Hayes for her service to my office and to the people of the 21st Congressional District of California.

Alexis Hayes was born and raised in Visalia, California to Mr. and Mrs. James and Kristin Hayes on February 5, 1994. Six years later, in 1999, Alexis was blessed with the birth of her sister, Riley Hayes.

Ms. Hayes attended Mountain View Elementary and Divisadero Middle School prior to attending Mt. Whitney High School, where she graduated in 2012. Following high school, Alexis began her general studies at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California. While in school, Ms. Hayes served as the President of the local College Republicans Chapter.

Since high school, Ms. Hayes has been an active member of her community. From an early age, she has demonstrated a strong interest in politics and an unwavering commitment to public service.

She has held positions as Office Manager for Valadao for Congress, Intern for Congressman DEVIN NUNES, and most recently, as a Constituent Services Representative in my Hanford, California office.

Friday, July 31, 2015, will be Ms. Hayes last day as a member of my staff. In August, Ms. Hayes will begin attending the University of California, Berkeley. While I am proud of her academic achievements, she will be greatly missed as a member of my team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending Alexis Hayes for her public service to the people of the Central Valley and wishing her well as she begins the next chapter of her life.

TRIBUTE TO WORLD WAR II
VETERAN CARL CRISP

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a remarkable war hero from Indiana's 6th Congressional District—World War II Veteran, Carl Crisp.

Carl honorably served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1943 to 1945. He flew numerous missions with the allied forces throughout the Ardennes and played a critical role in liberating France from Nazi occupation.

It's been a long time coming, but on Saturday, August 1, 2015, Carl will be presented the French Legion of Honor Medal during a ceremony at the Henry County Historical Society Museum. This distinguished honor is given only to those who have served France or the ideals it upholds, and Carl's service in World War II makes him more than deserving.

I congratulate Carl on this recognition and thank him for his service on behalf of our great nation. The entire free world owes him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.